



**CITY of NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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Northampton Health Department Opens Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Sunday for children ages 5-11

NORTHAMPTON - The Northampton Health Department is thrilled to offer vaccination appointments for children ages 5-11 years old starting Sunday, November 7, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The pediatric vaccine clinic will be held at the Elks Lodge, 17 Spring Street, Florence, and will only be open to children ages 5 to 11 years old. Appointments will also be available after school hours for the next six weeks at the Elks Lodge in Florence and at several Northampton Public Schools and community-based locations. We are working with Northampton Public Schools, the Hilltown Community Health Centers, and local pediatric colleagues at Northampton Area Pediatrics and Cooley Dickinson practices to make sure the vaccine is widely available to all children regardless of transportation needs or previous healthcare status. In continued collaboration with the Hampshire County Medical Reserve Corps and Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition, the Northampton Health Department will provide mobile clinics in community and neighborhood sites in Northampton and in Hampshire County to make vaccinations accessible for families.

On November 2, 2021, the CDC expanded its COVID vaccination recommendation to indicate that children 5 to 11 years old be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine. "Vaccinating younger children will allow children and their families excellent protection from the COVID virus. It has been deemed safe and effective by the CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and our local pediatricians and infectious disease experts. Vaccinating this large group in our communities is an exciting step toward the other side of this pandemic. It is important that we get our children vaccinated as soon as possible," said Health Director Merridith O'Leary.

Pre-registration and appointments are strongly encouraged and can be made on the City of Northampton website www.northamptonma.gov/2219/Vaccine-Clinics.

"I had tears in my eyes when I opened the pediatric vaccine shipment this week," said Kate Kelly, Public Health Nurse and parent of two elementary aged children. "Our staff and volunteers are ready and waiting to make Sunday and these next few weeks a success. We are planning a fun, festive opening day on Sunday."

For more information contact healthdept@northamptonma.gov or call 413-587-1215